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AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

AGAM-P (M) (7 Nov 66) FOR OT

9 November 1966

3466

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (U)

TO:

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1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966, dated 9 August 1966. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

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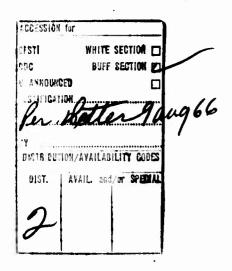
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OTH BATT LION 14TH ARTILLERY ATO US Forces 96295

9 August 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Feriod Ending 31 July 1966 (RGS CSFOR-65) (U)

TO: See Distribution

Section 1. SIGHTFICANT ONG MINATIONAL OR UNIT ACTIVITIES.

1.(U). At the start of the charter the Battalien was closed in base camp with the following exceptions:

a. Btry D, 9" New, SP, was in position along Nighway 19 east of Fleiku providing artillery support for a road opening operation. The

battery departed base camp on 25 April.

b. Three (3) NCOs were on TDY to Due Co SF Camp to teach artillery fire direction procedures and cannoneer's duties to the CLOG personnel. These NCOs departed 26 April for a tentative TDY period of two (2) to three (3) weeks and returned on 5 May.

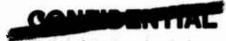
c. One (1) officer and three (3) NCOs who were sent TDY to Dak rek SF Camp on 27 April for the same purpose as 1b, above, returned on

5 June.

- 2.(U) Btry D closed in base camp on 5 May. During the operation, Btry D fired 48 rounds in two (2) registrations and 16 H & I missions. There was negative enemy contact during the period.
- 3.(C) On 9 May, Btry B (175mm Gun), Btry D (8" How), and Command Elements from Hq Btry moved to Flei He as Camp to participate in operation "PAUL REVERS". On 17 May, Btry B (-2 gow) moved to Due Co. Effective 19 May, Bn(-) was attached to 3rd Ede, 25th Div for the direction of operation "PAUL REVERS".
- 4.(U) On 27 May, Btry B(-) fired 54 rounds in the vicinity of l'lei Djorong SF Camp to assist in the defense of the camp. Although no casualties were assessed, no enemy activity was observed after the firing was concluded.
- 5.(C) Btry A(-) replaced Btry B(-) at Due Co on 28 May. The following day, the remainder of Btry A moved to Plei No, after which two (2) how-itzers from Btry D departed for Due Co. The Bn Notro Section moved to the 3rd Bde, 25th Div fiel CP, and the remainder of Btry B closed at home station on 29 May. The Metro section moved to a position six (6) MM north of Plei No on 21 June with 3rd Bde, 25th Div CP, and rejoined the Operations Plateon at Plei No on 15 July. The section returned to home station on 31 July. All moves were accomplished without incident. The units remained in those positions through the end of the period. As of 31 July the battalion has a composite battery consisting of two (2) 6" Howitzers and two (2) 175mm Guns at Due Co under control of CO, Btry A, and a similar composite battery at Plei Ne under control of CO, Btry D. In addition, the Dn Operations Plateon is at Plei No. A service element has been stationed at the 3rd Bde PSE to expedite moving supplies to the field locations.

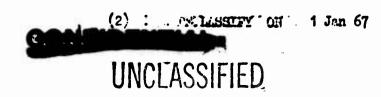


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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966 (U) (centd)

- 6.(U) On 1 Juno, Btry A, at Due Co, fixed approximately 270 rounds of 8" and 175mm ammunition for protection of a Special Forces Mike Force. No body count of ensualties was assessed, but the Mike Force, which had been surrounded by a superior VC force, escaped with very light easualties.
- 7.(U) Btry B was on operation with the 1st Lir Cay Div between 10 June and 25 June. On this operation the bettery moved first to Ploi Frong SF Camp, then to Kentum, and finally was split with two (2) guns and the FDC element moving to a position approximately 15KH west-south-west of Pleiku. Negative enemy contact was established on the operation. During this period base camp was occupied by Hq Btry(-) and Sve Btry(-) only, with one (1) plateon of infantry form 3rd Bdo, 25th Div for camp security.
- 8.(U) On 25 June, one (1) 175mm gan iron, bury B malfunctioned at 2340 hours. The gun was destroyed, three (3) Ef killed and six (6) El wounded, three (3) seriously. Replacement gun, US/L #12GR66 was received on 26 July.
- 9.(U) On 2 July, Btry L at Duc Co fixed 12 rounds of 175mm ammunition in defense of Ploi Djorong SF Camp. The attack broke off when the first round impacted. No easualty assessment was obtained.
- 10.(U) The battalien was attached to the 52nd Artillory Group, effective 20 July, per General Order 287, Eq I Field Force Vietnam, dated 29 July. The same GO detached the 77th CM Radar Detachment from the battalien and attached it to the 52nd Artillory Group. The two (2) Searchlight sections of Btry B, 29th arty remained attached, by verbal order, to the battalien.
- 11.(U) During the period, the Bettelien Armunitien Trains, with security elements from 3rd Bdo, 25th Div, conducted amountains and POL resupply runs to Duc Co six (6) times and to Plei Me eight (8) times. All of the trips to Plei Me were uneventful. On the trips to Duc Co, the security elements with the column hit land mines four (4) times, and bettelien vehicles hit mines two (2) times. He American casualties were suffered on any of these incidents, but one (1) 5T truck was damaged on 30 June, and one (1) M110 Amounitien trailer was destroyed on 15 July. The 5T truck was repaired and completely serviceable by \$1176CH July.
- 12.(U) The battalian has suffered 18 ensualties during this period, eight (8) killed and ten (10) wounded. Casualties occurred as follows:
- a. One (1) KL: solf-inflicted accidentally vic Duc Co S# Camp.
 b. Two (2) KL: vic Duc Co by Wo infiltrators who turned a Claymore mine around and detenated it. The infiltrators had been at Duc Co SF Camp for several menths prior to the incident.
- o. Two (2) KIA and two (2) Will at base camp while removing the perimeter nine field.
 - d. Three (3) KI. and six (6) WI. when the 175mm gun malfunctioned



SUBJECT: Uporational Report for Quarterly Poriod Ending 31 July 66 (U) (contd)

- One (1) WL'. when he detenated a CBU near lifet He SF Camp. f. One (1) WILL and ovecuated to Japan after impaling a punji stake in his leg while serving as an PO on patrol with Special Forces personnel.
- 13.(U) During the period this unit has received confirmed credit for 40 killed, one (1) wounded as a result of our fires.
- 14.(U) During the period the following personnel actions occurred which influence unit morale:
 - a. Personnel lesses 42
 - b. Fersonnel gains 146
- c. Prosont for duty strongth close of period: 32 Off, 4 40, 592 El.
- d. Promotion allocations to E-4, E-5, E-6 during poriod None
- **(ø)**
 - e. Mail arrived on all but five (5) days during period.
 - R & R quotes during poriod:
 - (1) 126 out-of-country.
 - (2) 24 In-country.
 - g. Pay has been timely and accurate.
- h. 26 Officers and MCOs grades E-7 through E-9 have less than 60 days until DUROS and have not received either orders or assignment instructions.
- 15.(U) During this period the buttalion fired the following amunition:

MEVATON 8" How	TYPE HE	Fuze PD CVT Mrsq	/1007T 5512 11 206	TOTAL EXPENDE 7346 51 269	n:	COMMENT
		TOTAL	5729	7696		
175ma Gun	Ш	CVT I'D	4980 52 6	8160 622		
		TOTAL	5506	8782		

16.(U) The following logistics actions have taken place:

a. Betwoon 8 and 12 May logistical problems pertaining to operation "LauL REVENE" were resolved. The initial problems involved water and ammunition resupply. The water problem was solved when the 3rd Bdo, 25th Div arranged to deliver one (i) water trailer to each location daily utilizing CH-47 mircraft. After 12 May, problem in delivery of water and rations was occasioned only by inclement weather which procluded the use of aircraft, or by heavy tactical requirements involving largo scale use of nircraft.

b. Two (2) water trailers were berrowed from S-4, 3rd Bdo, 25th Piv to facilitate the water resupply. On 4 July, one (1) of the bat-telien water trailers was dropped by a CH-47 during resupply and was completely denclished. Battalien is now short two (2) water trailers,

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for quarterly varied Unding 31 July 66 (U) (contd)

one which became unserviceable on operation "LINCOLN" on 4 April and the present loss.

c. As sponsors for the 52nd Artillery Group and 3rd Am, 6th Artillery, the S-4 submitted requisitions for bunker and barrier material, established account numbers, acquired and erceted tentage for the advance parties. The battalian provided water, rations, and quarters for the advance parties from 8 through 18 June, and water and rations for Hq Btry 52nd Artillery Group from 18 June, through 22 July.

d. Requisitions were placed for 199,999 sandbags to construct field fertifications for the positions at Due Co and Floi No SF Camps. To date these requisitions have not been filled. Follow-up action through supply channels indicates that none are available in his area

at the present time.

17.(C) The following are critical surply shortages. Follow-up action has been initiated with negative response at the present time.

Q(L'AT ITY	TP	rypisition dae			
	98	Truck, utility, &T, 11151	15 Mar 66			
	OR	Truck, cargo, 25	3 Juno 66			
	on	Trailor, water, 1127	2 .ipr 66, 4 Jul 66			
9	Sots	Fan bolts for an truck, 11151	31 Jan, 17 Jun, 19 Jun, 21 Jun			
56	oa .	12V Automotive battery	27 Apr, 19 Jun, 22 Jun, 19 Jul			
		Survey components (necessing poles, tape repair sections,				
		and survey sats, 4th order)	10 Apr 66			
1	00.	Tank, liquid storage	10 lpr 66 30 lby 66			

18.(U) On 19 July, this unit was visited by Major General Anderson, CG Army Materiel Command. During his visit, the use of the Gun Direction Computer, N18 (FADAC) in Fictness was discussed. MG Anderson explained that ACC desired to have the Computer field tested in RVN on a reduced scale prior to issuing it to all units. The Commanding Officer, 6th Da. 14th Arty, then stated that we would like to be one of the units selected to field test the equipment.

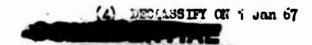
19.(U) During the period of this report, the battalien spent 89 days on combat operations.

Section 2. COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. Inst 1. Observations (Lossons Lorence)

1.(U) Communications:

a. ITE: Difficulties in long range Mi communications.

DISCUSSION: The increased range of the row series FM radios, and the large number of units in the area. causes communication problems. Units with frequencies \$.95 MC apart out out each other's transmissions and override the other unit's frequencies. Additionally, the problem of language interference appears to be increased, resulting in transmissions being out out by other units. Also, when operating at or near maximum





SUBJECT: Operational Report for (marks: Jg Torried Ending 31 July 66 (U) (contd)

range during the meason season, communications becomes virtually impossible for several hours each day.

OBSERVATION: Communications officers at all levels must exercise very close supervision of assignment of frequencies. The use of AM radio is veice transmissions might serve to decrease the congestion on the FM frequency bands. The issue, to selected units, of a suitable AM radio on the basis of one (1) per firing battery and two (2) per battalian operations conter would provide satisfactory conditions to test this possibility.

b. ITEM: Changing unit radio call signs.

DISCUSSION: When any unit changes its radio call signs, as should be done periodically for security reasons, all units with when it nermally works should be notified. However, the fluid tactical situation, and the difficulty of making distribution to all units requiring such information, makes it extremely difficult to insure that all units have the up-to-date items. Additionally, since an artillery battalien may work with any unit in the area, a non-divisional GS battalien must maintain current SOI's for all units in the appropriate corps area.

OBSERVATION: Unit radio call signs should not be changed once they are assigned and it has been verified that no other unit has conflicting call signs. Frequencies should be changed periodically on direction from higher headquarters after screening to insure that the maximum amount of frequency interference is eliminated.

2.(U) Ingistics.

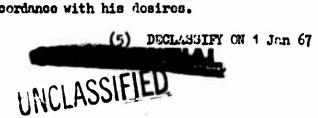
TiM: Difficulties were encountered in providing outable water to widely dispersed units.

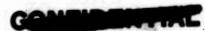
DISCUSSION: Rosupply by air becomes mandatory when units are widely dispersed and the read network is not suitable for convey neverient. Then the local water cannot be purified by chemical means, petable water must be flown in daily. When approximately 150 to 250 personnel are in the position, this requires at least one (1) water trailer or bladder per day, thus tying up aircraft which could be utilized elsewhere.

OBSERVATION: The issue of three (3) G_{pp} G_{pp} water purification systems per battalien would greatly relieve the afterest requirements for water resupply.

inrt 2. Roccomendations.

1.(U) In the Operational Report on Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 66, it was recommended that the M18 Gun wirection Computer be issued to this unit as soon as possible. Based on the conference with Major General Anderson (pare 17, see 1 above), recommend action be taken to obtain sufficient sets for this unit to field test the computer in accordance with his desires.





SUBJECT: Operational Suport for Guarterly Lericd Ending 31 July 66 (U) (nontd)

- 2.(U) Water purification System: Recommended changes in personnel and equipment which were submitted to I Field Force Viotnam artillory on 26 July included the addition of personnel and equipment for two (2) 666 callon per minute purification units. Subsequent roovaluation indicates that one (1) water purification unit per firing battery is more appropriate. Recommend that action be taken to expedite this item.
- 3.(U) The shortage of two (2) of the battalian's five (5) water trailers and the survey equipment (section 1, para 16 above) seriously hampers the operational capability of the unit. Recommend action be taken to expedite issue of these items.

M. Williams Communding

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7 - 52nd Arty Group, ATTN: 8-3 1 - 6th Bn, 14th Arty, ATN: S-3

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AVFA-AT-52-CO (9 Aug 56) 1st Ind SUBJECT: Operational deport for Quarterly Feriod Ending 31 July 1966 RCS(CSFCR-65) (U)

HEAD MARTINS, 52D ARTHINGY GROUP, APO 96295, 19 August 1966

To: Hendquarters, Department of the Army, APPE: ACSFOR, mahington, D. C. 20310

- 1. Forwarded.
- 2. Concur in commander's observations. Report is considered adequate.

C. L. Toblascii Colonel, Artillery Commanding

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(7)

